

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**



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May 29, 2008

To: All FS Manual Holders

From: Tammy Poppe, Food Stamp Program Officer
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SUBJECT: Bulletin FS 62

Please place this bulletin at the beginning of section FS 101-1.

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SECTION: Application Processing

SUBJECT: Confidentiality

REFERENCES: 7 CFR 273.1(c)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Receipt

INTRODUCTION: The Department's Office of Legal Affairs provided clarification that confidential information regarding a food stamp applicant or recipient cannot be disclosed to investigators of child or elder abuse and neglect. Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 41-3-205 does not authorize the Office of Public Assistance (OPA) staff to give its confidential information to investigators of child or elder abuse and neglect. Even if there was a Montana statute allowing the OPA staff to disclose information to investigators of child or elder abuse and neglect, OPA staff would not be able to disclose the information because federal regulations do not authorize the disclosure.

POLICY CHANGE: FS 101-1 Page 1 under **INFORMATION PROVIDED WITHOUT NOTICE TO OR PERMISSION OF PARTICIPANT** remove number 1.

Please contact your Regional Policy Specialist if you have questions or concerns about this policy.